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SB 650 (Hall/Glazer) Assault Weapons
FACT SHEET

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ISSUE

Studies show that states with the toughest gun laws have the lowest rates of gun-related deaths. While California has led the nation in prohibiting the ownership of military-style assault weapons with detachable ammunition magazines, gun manufacturers are exploiting the “bullet button loophole” to create “California compliant” assault weapons.

For years, gun owners have been able to circumvent California’s assault weapon laws by using a small tool to quickly eject and reload ammunition magazines. Bullet button-equipped weapons are functionally the same as illegal assault weapons, but are not included in the prohibition because a tool is required to release the ammunition magazine, and it cannot technically be released by hand.

These types of modifications have no legitimate use for sport hunters or competitive shooters. Bullet button-equipped weapons are designed only to facilitate the maximum destruction of human life. Such weapons have been used in a number of recent gun attacks including the recent terrorist attack in San Bernardino that left 14 Californians dead and 21 injured.

SOLUTION

SB 650 (Hall/Glazer) closes the bullet button loophole by redefining assault weapons to include military-style semi-automatic firearms that do not have a fixed ammunition magazine, requiring such weapons to be registered with the Department of Justice (DOJ), and prohibiting the future sale, purchase or possession of such weapons in California.

This bill clarifies the definition of assault weapons and provides the DOJ the authority to bring existing regulations into conformity with the original intent of California’s Assault Weapon Ban. Absent this bill, the assault weapon ban is severely weakened, and these types of military-style firearms will continue to proliferate on our streets and in our neighborhoods.

SUPPORT

(As amended 5/5/16)